Outlook

RE: Jackson County Board of Elections - Midterm Elections Polling Site Update

From Christy Agner <cagner@email.wcu.edu>
Date Tue 4/14/2026 2:50 PM
To Kelly Tornow <ktornow@email.wcu.edu>; Melissa Wargo <wargo@email.wcu.edu>

Thanks Kelly,

It is my understanding that WCU would, similar to the practices employed during the last 10 years of operating a voting site, engage the respective advisory committee to ensure criteria set out by the BOE staff are met. Given our long partnership with the BOE on operation of an Early Voting site, I know of no current barriers to meeting the site criteria.

While the site under consideration is different from the previous site, there might be some work for the committee to review differing parking and signage needs for EV vs ED. The campaigning zone should be consistent for ED / EV, if I understand state statutes correctly.

On the 'other considerations' I am aware CCESL is actively researching those answers with the goal of moving information (permitting, network quality,)

Hope that is helpful!

Christy Agner
Western Carolina University

From: Kelly Tornow <ktornow@email.wcu.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 2:12 PM
To: Melissa Wargo <wargo@email.wcu.edu>; Christy Agner <cagner@email.wcu.edu>
Subject: Fw: Jackson County Board of Elections - Midterm Elections Polling Site Update

Following up with the two of you on this — I just didn't want to leave Amanda hanging but wasn't sure who had talked to whom at this point. Thanks!

From: Kelly Tornow <ktornow@email.wcu.edu>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2026 8:47 AM
To: Carol Burton <burton@email.wcu.edu>; Lori Anderson <landerson@email.wcu.edu>; Richard Starnes <starnes@email.wcu.edu>; Melissa Wargo <wargo@email.wcu.edu>
Cc: Joy Mischley <jmischley@email.wcu.edu>
Subject: Re: Jackson County Board of Elections - Midterm Elections Polling Site Update

Amanda, the Jackson County elections director, contacted Joy and me yesterday to begin discussing logistics if the Board decides to consolidate the two Cullowhee sites into a single WCU location at HHS. The Board has requested a site agreement or contract outlining use of HHS, and Amanda would like to share additional information with the Board ahead of its April 21 meeting.

Under state law, a county board of elections may require the use of any building "supported or maintained, in whole or in part, by or through tax revenues" as a voting site. In practice, however, this authority is typically exercised with substantial input from the entity operating the facility, and I have rarely seen a county board compel use if building operators indicate it is not feasible.

Here are some additional factors Amanda mentioned:

- Early Voting is Oct. 15-31, 2026
- EV hours for voters will be Mon-Fri 8am-7:30pm and Saturdays 10/24 & 10/31 8am-3pm. Workers will need access to the space for an hour before and an hour after voting hours.
- Setup would need to occur Wed. Oct. 14
- Election Day is Tues. Nov 3 - ideally, we would swap most of the equipment at the close of EV and finishing touches on 11/2.
- ED hours for voters are 6:30am-7:30pm. Workers need access to the space an hour before and an hour after voting hours.
- Jackson Co. Public Works would pick up election supplies on the morning of Wednesday 11/4.

Other considerations she mentioned needing:

- Clarification on network access, quality etc.

- Guarantees related to designated parking (In the fall, Parking offered 20-30 designated spaces)

- Information about security of the space - keys, access etc.
- Clarification on campaign zones, if parties have to apply (I believe they did when they'd be outside the UC) and sign placement on campus

How would you all like to proceed with these conversations?

Sincerely,
Kelly

From: Carol Burton <burton@email.wcu.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 11:20 AM
To: Lori Anderson <landerson@email.wcu.edu>; Richard Starnes <starnes@email.wcu.edu>; Melissa Wargo <wargo@email.wcu.edu>; Kelly Tornow <ktornow@email.wcu.edu>
Cc: Joy Mischley <jmischley@email.wcu.edu>
Subject: Jackson County Board of Elections - Midterm Elections Polling Site Update

All: the Jackson County Board of Elections met yesterday to consider early and day of voting for the midterms this fall. Please see the attached notes from

Jenna Kubiak in CCESL, who attended the meeting, along with three WCU students.

As you can imagine, if the Board's preliminary proposal moves forward and HHS is the preferred site, there are many steps to take, particularly around institutional commitment and voting logistics.

The Board must submit official plans for the polling site(s) by July 24th, 2026.

Carol

Carol Burton

Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

Western Carolina University